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OLL/LEG

24 July 1984
OLL 84-2584

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Personnel
Deputy Director for Special Programs
Office Personnel
Deputy Director for Policy, Analysis,
and Evaluations

VIA: Chief, Liaison Division/OLL

FROM: [redacted] STAT
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: S 2821: To amend Title 5, U.S. Code, To improve protections for former spouses of Government officers and employees under the Civil Service retirement system and the Federal employees health benefits program

REFERENCES: Memorandums dated 22 June, 6 July and 9 July 1984 on former Civil Service spouse legislation

1. Attached hereto for your information and analysis is the subject Bill. As stated by Senator Mathias in his introductory comments (attached), the Bill permits:

a. A Federal employee or annuitant to elect to provide survivor benefits to any former spouse (with the consent of a present spouse, if there is one);

b. State courts to include survivor benefits as part of a divorce decree or property settlement;

c. A former spouse to enroll in the Federal employee health benefit plan as long as she/he pays the full subscription rate. The Bill would require an employee at the time of retirement to obtain the written, notarized consent of his or her spouse before electing not to provide a survivor annuity.

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2. On 28 June, this Bill was referred to the Committee on Government Affairs and now resides in the Subcommittee on Civil Service, Post Office, and General Services. There is scheduled a hearing on this Bill on 1 August which I will attend.

3. This Bill is similar to HR 2300 and to the OPM proposal. (See references) Senate and House staffers state that while the political climate is right for passage and that differences are being ironed out, time is growing short for legislative action this Congressional session. I predict, however, that this Congress will pass a benefit package for former Civil Service spouses.

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